

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments to the claims and remarks made herewith, which place the application in condition for allowance. Applicants thank the Examiner for considering claims 7-11 to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and if all of the elements of the base claim and any intervening claims are included therein.

Claims 1, 3-6, and 8-12 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 10, and 12 are amended, and claims 2, 7, 13-15 are canceled, without prejudice, to advance prosecution and to place the claims in condition for allowance. The amendments and remarks made herein are not made for reasons related to patentability and, thus, do not prevent the application of the doctrine of equivalents. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments made to the claims can be found throughout the specification and from the cancelled claims.

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. The Examiner contends that the limitations of Claim 1 are narrative and unclear in lines 6-13. The amendment to claim 1 renders the rejection moot. Consequently, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §112, second paragraph, rejection are respectfully requested.

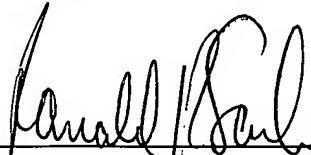
Claims 1-6 and 12-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Felter (U.S. Patent No. 682,052) in view of *Ex parte Breslow* 192 USPQ 431. Although the Applicant disagrees, the amendment to claim 1 with the recitation of claim 7 – claim 7 considered allowable by the Examiner – renders the rejection moot. Consequently, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments, it is believed that the claims in this application are patentable, and early and favorable consideration thereof is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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